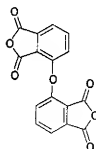


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

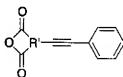
1.-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A thermoplastic ~~polyimide or imide~~ oligomer obtainable by polymerizing an acid component and a diamine component ~~characterized by exhibiting thermosetting properties in a high temperature region~~ characterized in that the acid component is an aromatic tetracarboxylic acid dianhydride represented by formula (I);



(I)

or its derivative, and that the terminal of imide oligomer molecule is capped by two or more times of moles of the difference in mole number between the acid component used and the diamine component used, of is used at least as one part of the acid component and a dicarboxylic acid [[di]]anhydride having a triple bond in the molecule or a mono-amine is used as a polymer molecule end-capping agent represented by formula (IV);



(IV)

in which R' is a trivalent organic group having 6 to 30 carbon atoms, which is a monocyclic aromatic group, a condensed polycyclic aromatic group or a non-condensed polycyclic aromatic group where aromatic groups are linked each other directly or through a linking member, and any of aromatic ring in formula (IV) may be unsubstituted or substituted.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) The thermoplastic ~~polyimide or~~ imide oligomer according to claim 9 ~~or 10~~ wherein at least a part of the diamine component is a diamine represented by formula (II);



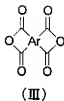
(II)

in which R is a substituted or unsubstituted bivalent organic group having an aromatic and/or aliphatic ring(s) ~~is used at least as a part of the diamine component.~~

12. (Currently Amended) The thermoplastic imide ~~polyimide or~~ oligomer according to claim 11 wherein R is a bivalent organic group having an aromatic ring(s).

13. (Currently Amended) The thermoplastic ~~polyimide or~~ imide oligomer according to claim 12 wherein R has at least three aromatic rings.

14. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The thermoplastic ~~polyimide or~~ imide oligomer according to ~~any one of claim[s]] 9 to 13~~ wherein the acid component further comprises an aromatic tetracarboxylic acid dianhydride ~~which is different from the aromatic tetracarboxylic acid dianhydride represented by formula (I) and the derivative thereof,~~ represented by formula (III);



in which Ar is a quadrivalent organic group having an aromatic ring, or its derivative is ~~further used, which is different from the aromatic tetracarboxylic acid dianhydride~~ represented by formula (I) and the derivative thereof.

15. (Currently Amended) A thermosetting ~~polyimide or imide~~ oligomer obtainable by heat-treating a ~~polyimide~~ the imide oligomer as claimed in ~~any one of claim~~[[s]] 9 ~~to 14~~.
16. (Currently Amended) A solution or suspension containing ~~polyimide or~~ the imide oligomer as claimed in ~~any one of claim~~[[s]] 9 ~~to 14~~.
17. (Currently Amended) An ~~polyamic acid or amic acid~~ oligomer, which is a precursor of a ~~polyimide or~~ the imide oligomer as claimed in ~~any one of claim~~[[s]] 9 ~~to 14~~.
18. (Currently Amended) A solution or suspension containing a ~~polyamic acid or~~ the amic acid oligomer as claimed in claim 17.
19. (Currently Amended) A thermosetting ~~polyimide or amic acid~~ imide oligomer obtainable by ~~heat-treating a polyamic acid~~ imidizing the amic acid oligomer as claimed in claim 17 ~~[[18]]~~.
20. (New) A polyimide obtainable by heat-treating the imide oligomer as claimed in claim 9.